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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
OFF SECY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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JCSM-426-62

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~~M. Gilpatrick~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Cubans in the US Armed Forces (U)

20036

Washington, DC

From the NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE, 225 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC

1. Reference is made to a memorandum by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated 21 May 1962, on the above subject, in which it was requested that the necessary detailed plans be developed to implement the President's instructions that selected Cuban refugees be inducted into the US Armed Forces.

2. The attached plan, which follows the basic planning guidance provided, has been developed. The plan requires the lowering of current induction standards to permit induction of those individuals who have dependents and who do not possess the required facility in the English language. These individuals will be organized into Cuban units through basic and advanced individual training and at the end of that time will either be selected for further special forces type training, integrated into regular units or separated for the convenience of the government.

3. The Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that the success of the plan is dependent upon overcoming the difficulties previously encountered. Although the lowering of induction standards will permit many to serve who otherwise would be ineligible and the Cuban unit type organization with special forces training may serve to stimulate greater interest, there still remains the problem of motivation for service in the US Armed Forces. Since no definitive objective for utilization of trained Cuban personnel has been established, it is anticipated that there still will be a distinct loss of interest when these personnel come to the full realization that they are not being trained specifically for return to Cuba.

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4. Implementation of the attached plan will entail expenditure of funds which have not been budgeted for the coming fiscal year. The training of the Cuban refugees is considered an additional mission and, as such, will not contribute to the accomplishment of prior missions for which Service manpower ceilings have been authorized. It is, therefore, requested that necessary funds and personnel spaces be provided to implement the program, and that those Cubans inducted under this plan not be charged against current Service ceilings. Since the Army is best equipped to provide the type training envisioned, it is anticipated that primary responsibility for implementation of the plan will be placed with that Service.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

  
GEORGE W. ANDERSON  
Acting Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment

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